

# **The Great Amusement Park**

**By Jonathan Elliott**

Interior. Dorm room at Berkeley. Credit titles read "Berkeley – 1968"  
Joe and Alfie are smoking grass listening to "In the White Room" by Clapton.  
There is a knock at the door.

Room Monitor  
Hey boys, letters for each of you.

Alfie  
Letters make me nervous man.

Joe  
Open yours first.

Alfie  
I've been drafted.

Joe  
Me too.

Alfie  
What are we going to do?

Joe  
Man I have to see Disneyland  
At least once before we  
Get killed.

Alfie  
I'm with you man.

Gail and Renee arrive.

Gail  
What's up fellas?

Alfie  
We're taking a road trip  
To Disneyland  
Before we go to Vietnam  
And get butchered like

A pair of roasted pigs.

Renee  
Really, can we go?

Joe  
Absolutely...

Exterior. The Parking lot. They roll out and head out of town. Giggling and screaming.  
"Disneyland here we come..."

*Sign reads "THE Present"*

Interior. Early evening. The plush Offices of Medea, Inc. Joe Brodsky is an advertising executive on his way to the top. He is looking over some graphic designs when the phone intercom rings. It looks like a color version of the memory of them leaving...  
A group of people having fun in a car.

Secretary (v.o)  
Joe, your wife is on line three.

Joe  
Hey honey. What's up?

Cut to:

Interior. Evening. The kitchen of Joe Brodsky's house. Stephanie is applying the icing on the birthday cake.

Stephanie  
I just called as a reminder.

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's office.

Joe  
A reminder. A reminder of what?

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's kitchen

Stephanie  
Your daughter's fifth birthday  
Party tonight.

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's office.

Joe  
Ah yeah yeah yeah. I remember.  
Of course honey. Six o'clock, right?

Stephanie (v.o)  
Five thirty!

Joe  
Right. I'll be there.

Enter Steven Jones,  
A young executive.

Joe  
Yes?

Steven  
Can I have a minute.

Joe  
Sure Steven. Sit down?  
No honey, not you.  
I have to go now.  
There's a client account waiting.  
I'll see you later, o.k.?  
Bye. (pause)  
What can I do for you Steve?

having

Steven  
I'm ~~hang~~ having a little trouble  
With the color scheme on this  
Zippy toy account thing.

Joe

Joe

What's bothering you?

Steven

Well, are we looking for a  
Warhol modern pop art  
Type thing or a trendy upscale  
Modern nouveau scale?

Joe

Whatever makes you  
Feel good about it Steven.

Steven

Whatever makes me feel good, hmmm.  
Can I take another day with it?

Joe

You can have twelve hours.  
I need that by 10 tomorrow  
Morning you know that.

Joe straightens his tie.  
Bill Pollocks enters,  
The CEO.

Bill

Joe, are you ready?

Joe

Ready as I'll ever be for rheumatism.

Steven leaves.

Bill

It's not rheumatism Joe. It's much,  
Much bigger than that.

They start to walk down the  
Hallway. People  
Are scurrying back and forth.

Interior. Hallway. Evening.

Bill

I have some news for you before we go in.

Joe

News? Good news or bad?

Bill

I don't know. It depends  
How you take it.

Joe

Well should I be braced against a wall, or sitting  
Down, leaning against a filing cabinet,  
Clutching a telephone? How should I take this?

Bill

Just keep walking. Like nothing's happening.

Joe

Am I being let go, fired, dumped?  
What is it Bill? Tell me. For god's sake  
I can't stand the way you build suspense.

Bill

I'm stepping down, retiring.

Joe

And? What does this have to do with me?

Bill

You're taking over. You are going  
To head this company.

Joe (deep sigh)

Well gosh Bill. I don't quite know  
How I feel about it?

Bill

It'll be something you need to  
Adjust to, as I did. After all,  
Medea, Inc does more than  
3 billion dollars a year

Bill, cont

in corporate advertising. The job  
is not just one small task.

Joe  
You said it.

Bill opens a door.

Bill  
We'll talk about this later.  
For now. Relax, enjoy the  
Presentation.

Interior. An oval presentation office. The lights are low and there are many men  
smoking cigars. A younger man is at the front with a slide projector remote control in his  
hand. He is Trent Darby, a Medea account exec.

Trent  
As you know, our client, Evergreen  
Senior Facilities has contracted us  
To build up their name and market  
Presence across the Nationwide  
Frontier of America.

Clicks first slide of a man  
In an oxygen mask.

Trent  
Next year, four out of every ten  
Seniors will require some type  
of hospice care. (pause)  
The numbers in terms of  
Actual dollars move into the  
Billions.

Louis (an exec)  
Is this a print campaign  
Or national commercial  
Spotage?

Trent  
My idea is for a little  
Bit of both.

Bill  
You want to know my thoughts?

Trent  
Of course Bill.

Bill  
Try to focus on one or the other.  
Don't try to mesh the two  
Mediums. It ends up  
Confusing the consumer as  
To the level of the quality  
Of the service.

Joe  
Good point Bill. Can I talk  
To you outside?

Bill  
Gentlemen, ladies,  
If you'll kindly excuse us  
For a second.

They step into the hallway.

Bill  
What is it Joe? I thought  
We were just getting rolling  
In there.

Joe  
Not that geriatric treatment  
Isn't the thrill of a lifetime  
Bill, but I have to take a  
Break from this tonight.  
My daughter's turning. Six. Uh. Five.  
Something like that.

Bill  
Well you go ahead Joe.  
Give her a big kiss.

Joe  
Thanks Bill. Thanks.  
I owe you a lunch or



Something.

Bill

No. Just have a good time.

Interior. Joe's office. Joe is flipping a pencil on his desk. He looks out the window. He has a vision as a helicopter turns towards the building.

Cut to:

Credit titles read "Da Nang, 1969". Late afternoon. Joe and Alfie are soldiers on a hill in the heat of combat as bullets fly in all directions. Alfie has a big Afro. He's a young African American soldier, Joe's best friend.

Joe

You o.k. Alfie?

Alfie

I'm o.k.

Cut to:

Interior. Night. Joe's office. He's still tapping his pencil on the desk. Sweating a bit as the helicopter comes closer. Closer. *fade out & cut to*

Interior. A bar in Saigon. Joe and Alfie are playing against several Vietnamese soldiers.

Joe

Let me get two cards. No three.

Alfie

I'm good.

Joe

You're good. Jeez.  
You sure?

Alfie

Sure I'm sure.  
Would I say I wasn't sure  
If I wasn't sure.

Joe

502

I don't know. You might.

General Vo  
Hey party boys. 2  
Can we close this out.

Joe  
Yes sir. Two pairs.

Alfie  
Full house.

General Vo  
I'm afraid I win with a pair  
Of Aces.

He shows his cards  
There are no aces.

Alfie  
You don't have a pair of aces.

General Vo  
Behind you.

Guns are drawn and  
Joe and Alfie are taken  
Prisoner.

Joe  
God you're a disappointing cheater.

They smack him.

Interior. Joe's office. Present day. Evening. 4.1  
Joe watches the helicopter fly beyond the building and looks at the people below, all on a way somewhere. He grabs his coat and Hat, starts for the elevator. He gets in. the doors close. He starts down, alone, closes his eyes.

Interior. A Vietnamese prison. Joe is on a chair, tied, being interrogated by General Vo.

General Vo  
You're a stinking capitalist  
Pig. A product of industrialist  
Bourgeoisie philandering  
That has plundered and raped  
Our beautiful land.

Joe  
You just hate to lose  
At cards don't you Vo?

General Vo  
Enough to tell you your  
Partner has already been  
Killed.

Joe  
No. Not Alfie. No.  
No! *Alfie... no... Alfie...*

Interior. The lobby of the building. The elevator doors open and Joe still hears his own screams as he walks out the door and grabs a cab.

Interior. Cab. The driver is Middle Eastern and listening to Iranian music.

Rafi  
Where you going?

Joe  
Googies bar in the Village.

Rafi  
Oh yeah, that's a nice place.  
A lot of cool girls. You  
Want to buy some nice hashish?

Joe  
No thanks. This isn't a big  
Party night for me, Wednesday.

Rafi

Rafi

Thursday.

Joe  
Huh?

Rafi  
It's Thursday.

Joe  
Right.

Rafi  
Here it is... five dollars.

Joe  
Thanks.

Interior. Evening. Googie's bar in Greenwich Village. Joe is sitting at the bar. General Vo is sweeping up in the corner. Joe doesn't seem to notice. Alfie is seated next to him.

Bartender  
Another Vodka Joe?

Joe  
One more. One more quick one.  
For good ole' times sake.

Alfie  
For good ole time's sake.

Joe (turning)  
Do I know you?

Alfie  
I don't know. DO you?

Joe  
It's just... Nah...

Alfie  
What? Say it.

Joe  
You look like somebody  
I used to play cards with.

Alfie  
Is that it? Just cards?

Joe  
Nah.. We killed together  
In Vietnam.

Alfie  
Yeah.. that's more like it.  
Circle get's the square.

Joe  
Alfie. Alfie Hudson?  
Is that you? It can't be you.  
Vo told me you were dead..  
He told me he killed you.

Alfie  
Ahh here we go. More Gen. Vo  
Screwed with my head stories.  
You wouldn't believe how many I've heard.  
He just put me in another  
Network is all. He's over there...

Vo is gone.

Alfie (continuing)  
Well, anyway. He was over there.  
Or I've been drinking too much and  
He's the one who is dead.  
I don't remember anymore...  
Not even your....

Joe  
Joe, Joe Brodsky, from California.  
Remember, we fought in  
The Infantry together.

<sup>Joe</sup>  
Went to Berkeley together. . . .

Alfie

My god. Joe Brodsky, Joe  
With the bad cards and  
Gets us tortured Brodsky.  
Good lord. He told me  
You were dead too.

Joe

I guess that proves it.

Alfie

What.

Joe

He really is a motherfucker.

Alfie

Yeah. But he  
Let's me drink free in here  
So keep it down.

Joe

Shhh.. yeah I understand.  
What do you do now?  
Where do you live? God it looks  
Like you haven't showered in...  
God... months... years..

Alfie

Since February anyways.

Joe

Tell me everything.  
What happened? After  
The bar.

Alfie

Jesus Christ, Joe, after  
The bar. That was 1968 or  
Something wasn't it?  
Feels like we're still in it.

Joe  
I guess we are.

Alfie  
I guess so.

Joe  
Show me where you live.

Alfie  
Huh? You must be crazy.

Joe  
No. show me. I want to  
See everything.

Alfie  
You really must be nuts.  
Are you serious?

Joe  
Yeah. Come on Alfie. Show me.

Alfie  
Let's take a walk.

Joe pays and they start to walk.

Exterior. New York City. They reach a subway.

Joe  
Where we going, uptown, downtown?  
The Burroughs?

Alfie  
You see those stairs.

Joe  
Yeah.

Alfie  
That's where *I live.*

Joe

Jesus. Alfie. I can't believe it.  
Did something snap?  
What happened man. You were  
So bright, young, capable.

Alfie

I guess, like so many of us.  
I just couldn't handle  
The bullshit.

Joe (thinking)

There must be something...  
Something I can do...

Alfie

Well why don't you go home to your  
Wife and kids and think about it..?

Joe

How did you know I have a wife and kids?

Alfie

You just seem to be wearing them.

Joe (laughing)

It's true. I do. I do wear them.

Alfie

Well you think about it  
Joe. I'll see you again.

Joe

Promise.

Alfie

Promise.

Interior. Noah Brodsky's apartment. In the corner, Michael's fifteen year old son is listening to "Black Sabbath." Noah is watching the honeymooner's, not paying attention. The doorbell rings.



Noah  
Who is it?

Joe  
Dad, it's me. It's Joe  
Your son.

Noah  
I don't have a son. He's  
An ingrate.

Joe  
I brought a chocolate pie.

Noah  
Let him in.

Joe  
What's up fellas?  
It's Annie's sixth birthday  
So I thought I'd bring  
You something to celebrate?

Noah  
That's nice.

He goes to sleep.

Joe  
Dad, don't fake narcolepsy with me again.  
Save it for social services.

Noah  
All right already. Cut the  
Social services cracks. They'll  
Cut me off.

Joe  
They won't cut you off Pops.

Noah

~~Noah~~  
Oh yeah. How do you know?

Joe  
Because you are the oldest meanest  
Man in the world and that in itself  
Is a disease.

Noah  
Thank you very much. I'll take that  
As a compliment.

Joe  
It's just the truth.  
Anyway, Michael looks busy.  
I should go.

He waves goodbye.  
Michael waves too.

Joe  
Goodnight all.

Noah  
And if I never see you  
Again....

Joe  
It'll be too soon.  
I know Pop. Always  
A charmer.

Noah  
You said it.

Joe  
Goodnight.

Departs.

Interior. Googie's bar. Joe is at the bar with a lovely call girl.

Joe  
What an evening.

Doris  
You want to talk about it?

Joe  
I got promoted.

Doris  
You don't sound thrilled.

Joe  
It's all too much for me.

Doris  
What do you mean?

Joe  
Too much responsibility for  
Me at this point.

Doris  
It must mean more money?  
You should be happy.

Joe  
I am a little happy.  
A little nervous is all too.

Doris  
You want to go someplace?

Joe  
Where to?

Doris  
I don't know, anywhere.

Joe  
I don't know. What's your  
Name?

Doris  
Doris.

Joe

Joe.

Doris

Nice to meet you Joe.

Joe

And you Doris.

Doris

Come on, I know a place.

They depart.

Exterior. Night. The bar.

They get in a cab.

Cabby

Where to?

Doris

The Sherry Netherlands.

Joe

God.

Doris

What?

Joe

Can't you pick someplace more, uh,  
Incognito?

Doris

How about the Essex House.

Joe

That's fine.

Interior. A room at the Essex House. Late that night. . Doris and Joe are in the room together.

Doris

Do you know how this works?

Joe

No, tell me.

Doris  
I'm \$125.00 an hour or  
Five hundred all night.

Joe  
That's it?

Doris  
What do you mean that's it?  
I could raise my prices  
If you like.

Joe  
No, I mean, you sell yourself  
Short don't you think?

Doris  
What do you mean?

Joe (coming closer)  
I mean a girl as pretty  
As you should be more  
Expensive.

Doris  
You're nice.

Joe  
How about three hundred  
For two hours.

Doris  
That'll do.

They make love.

*Additional Motel scene here*  
~~INTERCUT~~

Interior. Later that night. Rudy comes home and there are balloons on the floor and his wife Stephanie comes down the stairs with a party whistle.

Stephanie  
Well if it isn't the party pooper.

Joe  
I'm sorry hon. I had  
To work late on the  
Evergreen account.  
You want to hear the  
Good news?

Stephanie  
Oh, there's good news?

Joe  
Bill is retiring and  
He's giving me his job.

Stephanie  
Well that's something to  
Be awfully proud of.

Joe (leading her up the stairs)  
Come on. I'm tired.

She turns off the lights and they  
Go up.

*Joe's*  
Interior. ~~Rudy's~~ psychologist's office. Morning. Dr. Lafferty is at his desk and *Joe* ~~Rudy~~ is  
On the couch.

Dr. Lafferty  
When did it start?

Joe  
After he promoted me.

Dr. Lafferty  
Were the hallucinations audio  
Or visual?

Joe  
You mean like, did I hear things  
On the radio or television?

Dr. Lafferty  
No, I mean did you hear voices in  
Your head or actually see things?

Joe  
I just had a memory is all.

Dr. Lafferty  
A memory of what?

Joe  
Getting beaten, tortured  
In Viet Nam. Playing  
Cards in Saigon. The  
Day I got drafted. That  
Sort of thing.

Dr. Lafferty  
Is it the first time you  
Experienced these memories?

Joe  
Yes.

Dr. Lafferty  
What do you think triggered them?

Joe  
I can't say. Maybe the pressure  
Of finding out I'm going to be  
In charge.

Dr. Lafferty  
That's quite an accomplishment.  
Congratulations.

Joe  
Thanks.

Dr. Lafferty  
Let's go back to the hooker thing.

Joe  
You like that?

Dr. Lafferty  
Not particularly. Given the  
State of your marriage, which I say  
Up till now has been healthy  
I must tell you I think it's  
Disgusting.

Joe  
Well that's what I pay you for.  
Go ahead and give it to me  
Doc.

Dr. Lafferty  
Give you what?

Joe  
I don't know. Is there a prescription  
For infidelity?

Dr. Lafferty  
Not that I know of. I think  
It's something you need to sort  
Out for yourself.

Joe  
What do you think I should do?

Dr. Lafferty  
Whatever your heart tells you.  
Did you enjoy it?

Joe  
Well, I uh, I guess so.

Dr. Lafferty  
Do you think you will ever  
Do it again?

Joe  
I can't say for sure.  
I just can't predict that  
Far in advance.



Cut to:

Interior. Greg France's office. Late morning. He is a graphic designer in the company. Jimi Henrix is playing "Crosstown Traffic" while he applies the last Licks of an airbrush onto a poster of a grandma playing electric guitar When Joe walks in.

Greg  
Hey.

Joe  
Hey.

Greg  
How's it going?

Joe  
That's what I came to ask you.

Greg  
Well, what do you think?

Joe  
Let me see if I get this straight.  
You have Grandma playing an  
Electric guitar.

Greg  
Yeah man. Can you dig it?  
It's for the people magazine  
Spread. It's cool don't you think?

Joe  
Cool. Yeah dig it. Hey  
I have another idea.

Greg  
Oh man are you about to  
Bum my trip here or what?

Joe  
Probably. If it goes well.

Joe

I just don't see grandma  
Playing electric guitar.  
Not in this campaign.  
Not ever.

Greg  
Didn't my skateboarder  
Thing go over well last year 2  
For the power drink campaign.

Joe  
That was different Greg, the  
Skateboarder was twelve years  
Old.

Greg  
Man, you are really tripping on  
This aren't you?

Joe  
Heavily. Why can't you put  
Grandma in an oxygen tent,  
Something realistic.

Greg  
Realism. I see what you're saying.  
Totally. Realism. Got it.  
Give me three hours.

Joe  
Client is coming for review at  
Two. You have an hour and  
A half.

Greg  
Man. Would they give Michelangelo a  
Deadline? Dali? Picasso?

Joe  
Take an hour and forty.

Greg  
I love you man.

Joe  
I'll talk to you later.

Greg  
Bring me my Bette Midler  
Tape back!

Joe  
Gotcha.

Interior. Halway. Late Morning. Joe is walking down the office, secretaries crossing his path, busy and working. Lillian is a secretary who stops him.

Lillian  
Joe, is that you?

Joe  
Yes Lillian. What can  
I do for you?

Lillian  
Bill Pollacks wants to  
See you in his office.

Joe  
Which one? The back office  
Or the meeting room?

Lillian  
The back office.

Joe  
Wow, how exciting.  
I haven't traveled that far down  
The hallway in a long time.

Lillian  
And give him these.  
His messages from this morning.

She hands him a stack.

Joe (walking down the hall, reading)  
Call from client regarding  
Rent a car account. Call regarding  
Dinner with the Vice-President. Call

592

From Lawyer regarding the  
Network law suit... Jeez he's  
Busy.

He knocks  
We here a voice  
Bill (v.O.) "Come on in"

He enters.

Interior. Bill's office. An incredibly long table with the old man seated at the last possible chair.

Bill  
You had a good night last  
Night, I trust?

Joe  
Nothing special.  
You know. The usual.

Bill  
I know. Anything  
You want to tell me?

Joe  
Anything?

Bill  
Anything special?

Joe  
I don't understand.

Bill  
You don't understand.

Joe  
I don't...

Bill slams down a copy of  
The National Enquirer.

There is a picture of Joe  
Walking out of the

Essex house with the  
Call girl. The headline  
Reads "Medea , Inc's  
Newest President caught with his  
Pants down?"

Joe  
Jeez. God that's an ugly  
Headline.

Bill  
Lucky for you my college  
Roommate owns this  
Paper and we got the  
Heads up. Our company  
Bought every edition this  
Morning to save your marriage.

Joe  
I hope it works.

Bill  
I thought you and Stephanie  
Were fine. What's happening?

Joe  
I don't know Bill. Maybe  
It's the pressure of the job.  
Maybe I'm just feeling old.

Bill  
If you're lucky you get  
To feel a lot older.

Joe  
I know Bill. I know.  
Thanks for the effort  
Anyway.

Bill  
You're welcome.  
Now get back to work.

Joe  
Will do.

He exits.

Interior. Strip bar. Afternoon. We see a dancer move slowly across the stage to Aerosmith's "I'm Back In the Saddle Again." Joe is seated at the bar. A girl Comes over.

Cindy  
How are you today?

Joe  
Pretty good. And you?

Cindy  
Inexpensive. How about  
A lap dance?

Joe  
What do they cost?

Cindy  
Twenty dollars for a song.

Joe  
Can I pay for three in advance?

Cindy (takes his hand)  
Come on.

Interior. The back room of the Strip club. Joe gets a lap dance.

Interior. Joe's Cousin Mitchell's apartment. A bunch of guys are at the table playing poker.

Mitch  
All right fellas. Five card stud.  
Aces wild.

Noah  
Huh, what. I can't hear you.

Joe  
That's just Dad trying to psyche

Joe

Everybody out in the beginning.

Joe (into his ear)  
Five card stud, Pop

There is feedback from  
His earpiece.

Noah  
Got it. Thanks

Frank  
Anybody see the papers today?

Mitch  
No why?

Frank  
Tigers beat the Yankees  
In twelve innings.

Noah  
Whew...?

Mitchell  
You don't have to sound  
So fuckin relieved.

Noah  
I was just thinking about  
Something else.

Frank  
What's that?

Noah  
Nothing. Nothing in  
Particular.

Mitch  
You're acting mighty  
Peculiar tonight Joe.

Joe  
What do you mean?

Mitch  
Quiet. Real quiet.

Joe  
I'm just tired. I have  
A lot on my mind.

Mitch  
Yeah, did she blow you?

Joe  
Whoever she is that's on  
Your mind.

Mitch  
You're a disgusting pig  
Mitch. If you weren't  
My cousin I probably wouldn't  
Talk to you.

Joe  
Ever.

Mitch  
Ever? Is that a promise. Cause  
I'll throw you out the  
Fuckin door right now  
If you want to insult me.

Noah  
Come on. Come on. Let's  
Just shut up and play some cards.

Frank  
How did I marry into this  
Crazy family.

Noah  
Remember, you said she  
Had great legs.



Mitch  
Ahhh, that's the stuff..  
Everybody bet.

Noah  
Three dollars.

Joe  
The minimum is five dollars  
Pop.

Noah  
Five dollars then.

Mitch  
Who needs cards?

Frank  
Two.

Joe  
Three

Mitch  
I'm taking two. Did anybody  
Hear about the dockworker's strike. ?

Joe  
What do you mean?

Mitch  
First strike since world war ii.  
They say we might be eating  
Old fish for the next few weeks.

Frank  
That sounds terrible.

Joe  
Awfully fishy huh?

Frank  
What?

Joe  
The strike. I mean, they have

Joe

It pretty good.

Mitch

What the hell do you know Joe?  
You're at the top of the world  
Upstairs there. You don't know  
What it's like. Don't say you do.  
When you clearly don't.

Joe

All right. All right. Take it easy.

Noah

I think they'll blow it out of  
Proportion.

Joe

What do you mean.

Noah

I mean, whenever they strike,  
They blow it out of proportion.

Mitch

Well there is a genius reasoning  
If I ever heard one.

Frank

It makes sense to me.

Noah

They'll probably get into fish fights.  
Start throwing the fish around  
Everywhere.

Joe

Come on.

Mitch

Bet!

Frank

I'll see it.

Joe

Me too.

Mitch  
I'm out.

Noah  
Full house.

Joe  
I can't touch that.

Frank  
Me neither.

Noah  
Ah ha.

Joe  
You always have a good start  
In this game, huh Pop.

Noah  
Usually. Then you have a way  
Of talking me out of it.

Joe  
Come on.

Mitch  
No, it's true. You run your mouth.

Frank  
He's right.

Joe  
O.K. I'll shut up.

Interior. Stephanie and Janelle are in the Kitchen talking. Late afternoon.

Janelle  
What do you mean you don't trust him?

Stephanie

Stephanie

He came home awfully late last night.

Janelle

And there's something about that  
You don't trust."

Stephanie

There's something, just something  
I can't quite put the finger on.

Janelle

Why don't you hire a private investigator  
And follow him around a few days?

Stephanie

I'm scared what I'd find out.

Janelle (laughing)

I don't blame you.

Stephanie

No really. I'm afraid he'd take  
Some picture that would  
Crush me emotionally.

Janelle

And spiritually too, huh. 7

Stephanie

Yeah. That too.

The two little girls run in.

Annie

Mommie, mommie, she pulled my hair.

Stephanie

Try to get along kids.  
Huh. For a change?

Cut to:

Interior. Night. The poker table.

Mitch  
What the hell do you mean I cheated?  
There's no way in hell I cheated.

Noah  
You rigged the cards.

Joe  
Come on guys.  
You're acting like a bunch of kids.

Frank  
No I saw it. He cheated.

Mitch  
Obviously, I'm dealing  
To a bunch of morons. 7  
Can we get on with this.

Frank  
I'm for that.

Mitch  
O.k. Fat frank, you deal.

Frank  
I'm insulted. I'm not Frank.

Mitch  
I'm sorry. Just a figure  
Of speech. I didn't mean it.

Frank  
O.K. but watch the language  
Will ya?

Noah  
He's hopelessly over  
Sensitive.

Joe  
Obviously.

Frank  
All right, allright.

*Frank*

Seven cards stud. Black moriah.

Joe  
What's that?

Noah  
Highest spade in the whole  
Takes half the pot.

Frank  
Everybody understand?

Joe  
Got it.

Noah  
Capice

Mitch  
All right by me. Deal.

Joe  
Did you bring any chips or anything?  
My throat is getting kinda dry.

Mitch  
DO I look like the Avon lady.  
For Chrissakes, play cards. 7

Joe  
All right. All right.

Noah  
Jeez.

Mitch  
What?

Noah  
You know in the old days,  
Nobody had time for chat like  
This. They'd just shoot each other.

Frank  
You'd know, eh old timer?

Mitch  
His last card game was with  
Billy the Kid.

Noah  
Wisecracker.

Joe  
Yeah, shut up and play cards.

Interior. Stephanie in the kitchen. Later that night. She's tapping her toes, staring at the Food on the table.

Stephanie  
I'm so tired of this Joe. You  
Wouldn't believe.

She dials.

Interior. The card game. The phone rings.

Mitch  
Hello?

Stephanie (v.o)  
Is my bum there?

Mitch  
Yeah hold on.  
Hey bum. You here?

Joe  
Hi honey. What?  
Of course I forgot dinner.  
I wouldn't be here if I  
Didn't. Can't you feed  
It to the cats or something?  
I'll be home soon.  
Yes. I promise. Did you  
Forget my poker game?

She hangs up.

Interior. Googie's bar. Joe is at the bar with the girl on the right and Alfie on the left.

Joe

All I ever wanted was a  
Normal life. Why is it that  
The more success I achieve,  
The more complicated it seems.

Alfie

Man, you need to simplify.

Joe

Yeah, simplify. What do  
You mean by that?

Doris

I think he means you need  
To detach yourself from  
The material world and  
Seek your spiritual self.

Joe

That's not what...

Alfie

Exactly. That's what I mean.

Joe

Really.

Alfie

Really man. I can't even take this  
Conversation.

Joe

Why not?

Alfie

It's oppressive. Man it's like  
Rubbing salt in a wound or something.



Joe  
Man are you over dramatic.

Alfie  
Come on.

Joe  
No man. We haven't seen each other  
In thirty years and  
You are having trouble with the conversation?

Alfie (to Doris)  
Do you blame me?

Joe  
Now leave her out of it.

Doris  
Well I agree with him anyways.  
You are acting like a child.  
A small child.

Joe  
Am not.

Alfie  
I need another drink.

Joe  
Bartender. Three more  
Vodka tonics.

Alfie  
I want a scotch and water, man.

Joe  
So what? We're drinking vodka.  
Nah... I'm just being a bastard.  
Get him a scotch.

Alfie  
Thanks man.

Joe  
Your welcome.

Alfie  
Here's to old friends.

Joe  
To old friends.  
And new ones.

They clink glasses.

Doris  
You guys going to need anything tonight?

Joe  
Why do you ask?

Doris  
Because I see someone I know.

Joe  
Well go. Go then. Don't let  
Us hold you up from a shopping spree.

Doris  
Have a good time.

Alfie  
Right. A good time.

She leaves.

Joe  
I'm going to make it up to you Alfie.

Alfie  
Make what up? You don't  
Have to make anything up Joe,  
I believe you.

Joe  
No, that's not what I mean.

Alfie  
What do you mean?

Joe  
Do you ever think about  
The war Alfie?

Alfie  
Sometimes.

Joe  
What do you see.

Alfie  
What do you mean?

Joe  
When you close your  
Eyes and think about it?

Alfie  
Sometimes I think about...

Joe  
The cardgame?

Alfie  
Don't interrupt me.

Joe  
O.K. I'm sorry.

Alfie  
You should be. It's very rude  
To interrupt a person when  
He's just getting started. *you JUST DON'T DO THAT.*

Joe  
I won't do it again. Promise.

Alfie  
Good. Where was I? Oh yeah,  
I need another scotch.

Joe

Joe

Bartender.

Bartender  
What'll it be?

Joe  
Another scotch for my friend.  
I'm good.

Alfie  
Sometimes I wonder. I wonder  
If we were good. I wonder what  
It was all about. What we did it for.  
You know what I mean?

Joe  
I know exactly what you mean Alfie.  
I wonder the same things.

Alfie  
Sometimes I see us in the fields,  
Or in the trenches, or when we  
First arrived. You know.  
The innocents.

Joe  
And then we learned to kill.  
Lost our innocence.  
It's far away now. Huh Alfie?

Alfie  
No Joe, it's closer.

Joe  
God dam it. You're right Alfie.  
You're absolutely right.

Alfie  
Nah. Just drunk.

Joe  
I want to show you something  
Tonight Alfie.

Alfie  
You're not going to ask me to  
Suck your dick tonight are you Joe?  
Not even for three drinks.

Joe  
No man. I want to surprise you.  
Something better.

Alfie  
Do I have to get up out of this  
Chair to see it?

Joe  
Yes as a matter of fact.

Alfie  
Good.

Joe (paying the bar)  
Let's go.

Exterior. Googie's. Later that night.

Joe  
Taxi. Taxi!

Rafi  
What's happening?

Joe  
Hey man. Can you  
take us to 81<sup>st</sup> and York. 2

Alfie  
Uptown.

Joe  
Oh yeah. Way up.

Alfie sits back and

Puts on sunglasses.

Joe  
Nice shades...

Alfie  
Yeah.. they cool.

Interior. Medea's Incs lavish Corporate Apartment. Joe and Alfie enter from the hallway.

Alfie  
What's this?

Joe  
It's our corporate apartment.  
Typically we use it for  
Traveling partners or  
Clients. Usually it's  
Unoccupied. If you  
Want you can stay here  
When it's empty.

Alfie sits on a couch.

Alfie  
Does it come with room service?

Joe  
Sorry?

Alfie  
What am I gonna do when  
I want to drink?

Joe  
I don't know. There's a bar  
Over there.

Alfie  
Man. What can I say.  
This is really something...

Joe hits the remote control.  
The curtains open to a  
View of the city.

Joe  
Breathtaking, eh?

Alfie  
Incredible.

Joe  
Well enjoy.

Alfie is already asleep.

Joe  
Sleep tight.

He departs.

Interior. Pscyologist's office. Morning. Joe is talking to the Doctor.

Doctor Lafferty  
You sure it wasn't a hallucination.

Joe  
I doubt it.

Doctor Lafferty  
So, let me get this straight,  
You saw a war buddy you thought  
Was dead and put him in the  
Corporate apartment?

Joe  
Basically. Yeah that's it.

Doctor Lafferty  
Did you ever stop to think  
About what you were doing?

Joe  
Not really. To tell you the truth,  
I was drunk at the time.  
Really seriously drunk.

Doctor Lafferty  
Can I ask you a stupid question?

Joe  
Sure.

Doctor Lafferty  
Did you ever stop to think  
That maybe it's about the girl.

Joe  
What do you mean.

Doctor Lafferty  
Well maybe you were afraid  
Of the place being unoccupied  
Because the temptation  
Would be too great if you wanted  
To bring the new girl there.

Joe  
That's very insightful Doc.  
Really you are a challenger  
For Freud.

Doctor Lafferty  
I'll take that as a compliment.

Joe  
It was. Any suggestions now?

Doctor Lafferty  
I would say just make sure  
You get it cleaned up when  
They need it.

Joe  
God you're right about that.  
I'm sure we'll manage.

Interior. Joe's Kitchen. Evening. Stephanie is at the table, tapping a pencil. Joe  
Is reading papers.

Stephanie



What are you unclear about here?

Joe  
The part at the beginning.

Stephanie  
Which paragraph.

Joe  
The part that says divorce.

Stephanie  
What don't you understand Joe.  
It's a divorce.

Joe  
I guess I really messed up.

Stephanie  
Oh I can hear that phrase  
Just echoing through the  
Hallways as you say it.

Joe  
What does it sound like?

Stephanie  
Like some very ancient  
Cliché.

Joe  
Come on... A cliché?

Stephanie  
A cliché, you know Joe,  
As in, something one says  
Too much.

Joe  
There must be something we can do.  
Can't we talk about this.

Stephanie  
Talking is the trouble Joe.  
Lainy Edwards says she saw  
You with a callgirl.

On Annie's birthday!

Joe

Jeez. And you believed her  
That easily? How do you know  
It wasn't just a friend from the  
Office.

Stephanie

A call girl, a secretary. What  
Does it matter Joe? A girl  
Is a girl.

Joe

These are just family issues,  
Honey. Why are you  
Getting so upset.

Stephanie

You're just not the  
Man I married I guess.  
Why don't you mull  
That over.

Joe (getting his jacket)

I'm going for a drink.  
You think good and  
Hard about this  
Stephanie. I think  
You are way off base with this.

Stephanie

And that coming from the  
Home run king, huh?

Joe

Nice one, honey. Nice.

Interior. The limelight. A disco in New York. It's late and Joe is in line. Alfie  
Approaches, dressed in a new suit.

Alfie

You like the new threads man?

Joe  
Well, yeah. How did you  
Come up with them?

Alfie  
I sold the Tiffany lamp  
In the dining room.

Joe  
You're killing me.

Alfie  
Don't worry man.  
I bought a new modern  
Italian job, no one  
Will ever notice.

Joe  
If Bill ever goes there  
I'm dead.

Alfie  
He'll thank you for it  
Man, believe me.

Joe  
I should have bought  
The suit.

Alfie  
It is a nice touch, man, huh?

Joe  
You need me to cover  
You at the door?

Alfie  
Nah, I still got  
Some change from the lamp.  
Besdies, Ricky at the door is  
From Recon, he's one of us.

They get to the front.

Alfie

Hey man, my friend's a little  
Tapped, can you bring him up  
With me.

Ricky

No problemo, Alfie.

Interior. The club. Night.

Joe

I didn't realize you were  
So popular.

Alfie

It's nothing man.  
Just people looking after  
People, you know.

Joe

Yeah. That's a good thing.

Alfie

Man I really dig the hot tub  
In the bathroom though.  
I slept in it for two  
Hours.

Joe

Really?

Alfie

Till my fingers were like  
Prunes man.

Joe

Anything else I should know?

Alfie

Just we need more booze.

Joe  
I figured. I'll send in a request  
Monday. Anything else I  
Should know?

Alfie  
I'm a major player now, huh?

Joe  
You were always a major player  
Alfie. Always.

Alfie  
Thanks man. Let me  
Buy you one huh?

Joe  
O.K. Vodka tonic.

Alfie  
Right on man.

He goes to the bar and orders.

Joe (sees a girl)  
Hey.

Mary  
Hi.

Joe  
What's your name?

Mary  
Mary.

Joe  
Where you from?

Mary  
Las Vegas.

Joe  
Really?

Mary  
Yeah. Can I ask you  
A question?

Joe  
Sure. Go ahead.

Mary  
Why are you talking to me?

Joe  
I don't know. I guess I find  
You attractive.

Mary  
You look old enough to  
Be my father. You have  
A wife and kids at home  
Don't you?

Joe  
The honest truth?  
Yes.

Mary  
You want to dance?

Joe  
Sure.

They start to dance.

Mary  
There's something that turns  
Me on about married men.

Alfie comes back.

Alfie  
You should watch out, he's  
HIV positive.

She goes away.

Joe  
That was so unfair.

Alfie  
Ah, you'll thank me for  
It later.

Joe  
No I won't.

Alfie  
You and you're old lady  
Are fighting huh?

Joe  
How did you know?

Alfie  
I could always read your  
Face like a road map?

Joe  
She caught me cheating.

Alfie  
That's it? She want's to end  
It over another woman?

They sit down.

Joe  
I'm always working late. I  
Never spend time with her.  
It's a combination of things.

Alfie  
Women, can't live with em,  
Can't live without em.

Joe  
Any suggestions?

Alfie

Can't you get into it man?  
Flowers, candy, I'm sorry  
Baby. Lay out the karma  
Sutra oil. Give her a  
Swedish massage.  
Giver her the full workout.  
White men don't know anything  
About sex. Isn't that it?

Joe

I think you're probably right  
About that.

Alfie

It's all in the approach man.  
It's like your on the runway  
And don't want to take off.

Joe

I'm hearing you.

Alfie

Yeah, but do you  
Comprehend me?  
I mean, you are listening  
But are you understanding?

Joe

I think so.

Alfie

You have to know it.  
You have to realize it.  
Otherwise your  
Out man.

Joe

I hear ya.

Alfie

Well, what do you intend to do?

Joe

Sign the papers.



Alfie  
Are you prepared for it.

Joe  
Michael already lives with  
My Dad. The kids haven't  
Been getting along for years.  
Maybe it's for the best.

Alfie  
Then why are you asking me?

Joe  
I can't say. I just wanted  
Another opinion is all.

Alfie  
Well I fully believe in the  
Sanctity of marriage.  
Divorce is like a social disease  
That effects everything around it.  
Everything falls into sickness  
From that point on. It's like a spiritual  
Malady. It affects the view of everything.

Joe  
We've been living like  
Strangers for years.

Alfie  
Well then maybe you're right.  
Maybe you're right.

Interior. New York Subway train. Joe is riding the subway aimlessly.  
We hear "Last stop." It's night. Joe gets out and spins around.

Joe  
Where the hell am I.

Janitor  
The Bronx.

Joe  
Jeez, I don't live in the Bronx.

He gets back on the subway going the other direction.

Exterior. New York. We see Joe buying fruit at a small market.

Joe  
Is all this fresh fruit?

Vendor  
Yes all of it fresh.

Joe  
Do you have fresh Strawberries?

Vendor  
It's all fresh. Just take your  
Pic.

Joe  
You tell me?

Vendor  
They're all good.

Joe  
You sure?

Vendor  
Sure I'm sure.  
You don't like my fruit,  
Find some other fruit.

Joe  
I didn't say I didn't like it.

Vendor  
O.K. then \$3.50.

Exterior. Washington Square Park. Breakdancers are working out a routine near the arch. Joe gives them money. He stopys over at a comedian giving a show  
In the dried out fountain.

Comic

One out of every two  
People is ugly.  
Now look to your  
Left. Look to your right.  
If it ain't one of them  
Guess what?

Joe catches a cab.

Joe

81<sup>st</sup> and York please.

He goes into the building. Interior. Morning. Knocks on the door. Alfie opens. He's smoking a cigar.

Alfie

Hello.

Joe

Before I go back to  
Work.  
Before I go back home,  
Assuming I ever  
Get back home.  
I just want to know  
One thing.  
One thing, Alfie.  
Can you tell me,  
Give me an honest answer?

Alfie

Maybe, if it's not a  
Trick question.

Joe

What is the last word  
Alfie? What is the  
Last word?

Alfie

The last word.  
Not the first word.  
The last word?

Joe  
Yes. The last word.

Alfie brings him over to the window. A breathtaking view.

Alfie  
Come here. Look at the whole  
City. The soul of the city  
Beating like a drum for you  
Joe. Like an Afrikaan drum.  
Are you ready?

Joe  
Yes, give it to me.

Alfie  
Gasp.

Joe  
Huh?

Alfie  
That's the last word.

Joe  
Really?

Alfie  
Yeah. G- A -S - P.  
Gasp.

The end.